**Northshore School District and Cascadia Community College Partnership**

**Transition Math Project: Fall 2007 – Spring 2009**

The partnership between NSD and CCC began through this Washington initiative with a goal to increase the college readiness of NSD graduates by having a greater percentage place into college level mathematics. The focus was to educate students, parents, teachers, administrators, and counselors about the issues regarding college readiness of students - specifically that students who continue taking a math course beyond the junior-level math course were much more likely to place into a college ready math course.

**Math Placement Test Lessons: Fall 2008 - Current**

Megan Luce, Developmental Mathematics Faculty at Cascadia, visits the bridge-to-college-level senior math courses at each high school in the Northshore School District in order to facilitate lessons on math placement tests. The goal is to inform students about the placement process and strategies for placing higher (learning and retaining material of senior math class, doing practice test questions, and understanding rules and regulations of the test).

**Snohomish Consortium Math Placement Test: Spring 2010 - Current**

Since piloting in spring 2010, and fully implementing in spring 2011, juniors in the Northshore School District high schools have the opportunity to take a math placement exam. The primary purpose is to provide students with information about their college readiness skills and to encourage them to take a fourth year of high school math. Students are also informed that a placement score of 17 on the test allows them to automatically enroll in MATH&107: Math in Society at Cascadia, Edmonds, and Everett CCs after they graduate from high school.

Some of the highlights from the pilot and full implementation include:

* The pilot teachers attended a training provided by Megan Luce from Cascadia Community College where they learned how to administer the test, view student scores, and how to advise students on their scores.
* Teachers had a better understanding of how the College Readiness Standards were being assessed by taking the placement test in the training.
* The results provided students, teachers, and counselors with additional information that helped with making a decision about the senior math course selection.

The NSD has implemented a new Algebra 2 curriculum with common district-wide assessments for the junior-level math course this school year (2011 – 2012) and will be using the Snomath placement assessment as one of the common assessments administered for the course.

The district would like to use this year’s results to:

* Find district-wide patterns that indicate potential changes for our curriculum implementation.
* Determine whether there is a correlation between the district-wide common assessment scores and the Snomath placement assessment scores.
* Use the Snomath assessment along with other indicators to help students make a decision about the math course to take their senior year.

**Curriculum Alignment Project: Fall 2011 - Current**

This is a new project with a goal of aligning the second and third courses in the development math sequence at Cascadia with the bridge-to-college-level senior math course in the Northshore School District. Instructors from both Cascadia and each of the three major high schools in the district will meet regularly throughout the 2011-2012 school year to reflect upon and analyze the use of Complex Instruction as it relates to student learning. The cohort will address how to transition students passing the bridge courses into college level math more seamlessly through shared pedagogies and assessments.

For further information, contact Michelle Gruber ([mgruber@nsd.org](mailto:mgruber@nsd.org)) or Megan Luce ([mluce@cascadia.edu](mailto:mluce@cascadia.edu)).

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